Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 to read as follows:

This is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 10/087,982, filed March 5, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,776,872, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Page 16, amend the paragraph beginning at line 10, to read as follows:

The storage change condition may be automatically set according to the capacity of the external storage. However, it is more convenient if the user can set the condition. The storage change condition may be specified by information of "day and time" or information for a periodic specification such as "Monday every week". Or, the condition may be a point of time when samples of a specified number of lots are completely processed. The storage where the data collector ~~21~~2 via the data processor 21 is updating the database is called 'active storage'. The operator can specify a storage change condition such that when the active storage is changed. ~~After~~As shown in Fig. 11, after the storage change condition, which is set by the storage change condition setting device 23, is fulfilled, the data collector ~~21~~2 via the data processor 21 thereof starts to store the database into another storage so that the storage for which the storing operation is finished is released from updating tasks. Thereafter, the operator may produce a backup copy of the database in the released storage. Or, if the storage is removable device, the operator can just pick up the removable media containing data. It is preferable that when the active storage is changed, the event is displayed on the storage display or a notification is sent to the operator via e-mail.